



PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Inquiry into sugarcane bioenergy opportunities in Queensland

About this paper

The Primary Industries and Resources Committee has launched its Inquiry into Sugarcane Bioenergy Opportunities in Queensland (the Inquiry).

This paper provides information about the sugar industry and bioenergy opportunities in Queensland.

Queensland's sugar industry

Australia is one of the top 10 producers of sugar globally, and ninety-five percent of Australia's sugarcane is cultivated in Queensland. The industry contributes \$4.4 billion to the economy annually, and indirectly supports 20,000 jobs.

However, our sugarcane industry is vulnerable to global markets and competition from other major cane producers, including Brazil and India. Structural problems such as declining cane volumes and yields, falling cane acreage, and heavy reliance on raw sugar revenues also impact the industry. In recent years a number of Queensland mills have closed, and others face an uncertain future.

Bioenergy opportunities

Through the expansion of bioenergy production facilitated by government policy and funding, the sugar industry has the potential to diversify and reduce risk while significantly contributing to Queensland's energy transition.

Key opportunities:

- **Renewable energy cogeneration** involves burning cane byproduct (bagasse) to generate electricity. Electricity generated in this way is currently used to power sugar mills, with excess electricity exported to the grid. While current installed capacity is 448MW, the industry produces enough feedstock to provide 800MW of capacity, or the equivalent to another Callide B power plant.
- **Bioethanol** can be produced from sugarcane and used for blended fuels. Currently, Queensland producing 60 million litres. With an increased focus on ethanol production, Queensland's current production of 60 million litres can be scaled up to 1,000 to 2,000 litres from bagasse alone.
- **Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF)**, which can be produced from sugarcane-derived ethanol. With adequate support, the sugar industry would be able to support approximately 30 per cent of our domestic aviation fuel needs. Aligning SAF production with defence priorities also presents an opportunity to support national security by ensuring the fuel security of the Australian Defence Force through biofuels production.



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The Inquiry

If you would like to have your say or relate your experiences, the Committee invites submissions on any aspect of the Inquiry, from all interested parties.

For further information visit the [Inquiry webpage](#).

To make a submission, please read the Guide to making a submission, then lodge your submission [here](#).

Committee Members

Stephen Bennett MP (Chair)

Member for Burnett

James Martin MP (Deputy Chair)

Member for Stretton

Nigel Dalton MP

Member for Mackay

Robbie Katter MP

Member for Traeger

Glen Kelly MP

Member for Mirani

Tom Smith MP

Member for Bundaberg

Please feel free to share this information with any interested stakeholders in the community.

Scan QR code



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